Production of armaments at reduced costs

1406. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANPLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state that the action taken to modernise the Indian ordnance factories for production of highly modernised and mechanised armaments at reduced costs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE {SHRI HARIN PATHAK): Modernisation of Ordnance Factories is an ongoing process aimed at meeting the emerging requirements of Armed Forces. It also has, as its objectives, production of modernised and mechanised armaments in a cost effective manner. The steps taken include renewal and replacement of old plant & machinery and induction of new machines and processes. An investment of Rs. 1241 Cr. is contemplated during the 9th plan period.

Increased activity of China along the border in Arunachal Pradesh

1407. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether activities of Chinese troops on Indian border have been increasing; and

(b) if so. what steps have been taken by India, in view of the increasing activities of Chinese troops on the border?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The resolution of the boundary between India and China is outstanding. Both sides carry out patrolling activity in the border areas as per their respective perceptions of the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Certain increase in Chinese PLA activities was observed for some period during the current year along the India-China border. However, the situation is now stable. There is no tension anywhere along the border.

2. The two sides have been discussing the boundary question in the framework of the Joint Working Group to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary. Both sides have also reiterated their commitment to respect the Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the LAC in the India-China Border Areas and the Agreement on Confidence Building

Measures in the Military Field for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

3. Constant vigil is kept on our borders and all developments having a bearing on our national security are closely monitored. All necessary measures continue to be taken to maintain defence preparedness.

Need to modernise Indian Defence

1408. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to modernise Indian defence;

(b) if so, whether Government have prepared any plan in this direction;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the estimate of expenditure on this exercise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) It would not be in the public interest to divulge details of the plans for modernisation of the Armed Forces or the likely expenditure to be incurred on such plans.

Committee on financial requirements of J&K and North-East

1409. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a High Level Committee for working out financial requirements of Jammu and Kashmir with respect to security and development needs, for the current financial year;

(b) the details of members of the Committee and the details of its reports; and

(c) whether there is no plan to constitute a Committee for the North-Eastern States regarding the financial requirement, like that of Jammu & Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) In a meeting convened by the Home Minister on 17.11.1999 with the Chief Minister, J&K, Union Finance Minister, Defence Minister and